**The Washington Merry-Go-Round**

# FBI Embassy 'Bug' Embarrasses U.S.

*By Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson*

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, it has now been revealed, has been tapping the wires of the Dominican Embassy.

A foreign embassy in the United States is extraterritorial ground with privileges reserved to that country only. The United States may not intrude on embassy territory, even if murder is committed inside. This is international law which the United States has insisted upon abroad and which we adhere to in this country.

The State Department therefore is very red-faced to find that the FBI placed taps on the wires of the Dominican Embassy in 1961 shortly after the assassination of Dictator Trujillo.

This was disclosed as a result of the Justice Department's prosecution of Bobby Baker, the former Senate Secretary, some of whose conversations were bugged and wire tapped. As a result of this FBI eavesdropping it may be that the Baker indictments will be thrown out of court. The matter is now being heard before U.S. Judge Oliver Gasch in pre-trial motions.

The Justice Department, in admitting that some of Baker's conversations had been bugged, submitted conversations he had had with the Dominican Embassy. He had placed several phone calls to the Embassy around May 1961, usually speaking to the financial counselor Oscar Ginebra, about the prospects of Joaquin Balaguer then provisional president, becoming permanent president.

## Rusk Asks Suppression

Balaguer resumed the presidency this year after defeating leftwing candidate Juan Bosch in the post-revolution election. It won't help Dominican-American relations for Balaguer now to discover that his embassy phones were tapped the last time he headed the Dominican government.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk was so alarmed over the eavesdropping that he sent an anguished appeal to the courts to suppress the evidence. and directed Baker and his attorneys not to mention the embassy wire taps.

Oscar Ginebra, reached by this column at the Inter-American Development Bank where he is now a section chief, recalls receiving a number of phone calls from Baker in the late spring of 1961. However, he claimed he couldn't remember what was discussed.

It isn't known how long the FBI continued to monitor the Embassy's phones. However, FBI agents were listening in on the conversations of prominent Dominicans as late as this year.

The FBI tapped the phones of another Bobby Baker intimate, Jose Benitez, in Puerto Rico, while Juan Bosch lived in Benitez's apartment. The FBI wanted to know what Bosch was saying during the civil strife in the Dominican Republic. On one occasion he received a phone call from Santo Domingo reporting that one of the rebel leaders had been shot.

"See that he is shot in the back and then announce to the press that the Americans shot him," Bosch ordered over the phone.

Meanwhile, the story of FBI wire tapping contines to deepen.

## Heroes Without Headlines

Congratulations to the Madera Tribune for exposing the law fees received by California State Sen. James M. Cobey from two irrigation districts at the same time Cobey was chairman of the California Senate's Water Resources Committee. It was this conflict of interest which chiefly contributed to Cobey's defeat . . . Congratulations to Sherwood Ross of radio station WOL for taking on Washington, D.C., landlords in the "war on slums" in the Nation's Capital. Despite tenants' fear of eviction, they reported housing violations to Ross, who, working with D.C. inspectors has reported 3000 violations. An estimated 900 dwelling units have been cleaned up in Washington . . Congratulations to Marvin Sosna, editor of the Thousand Oaks News-Chronicle in California, for exposing shoddy building practices in the San Francisco Bay area. County inspectors have been wobbly and real estate interests have tried to boycott the News-Chronicle, but editor Sosna is putting up a courageous battle against them.

Congratulations to the Teamsters Union for launching a massive $2 million project to train 1800 people, in Southern California, in truck driving, auto mechanics and passenger-car driving. The Teamsters are working with UCLA's Institute of Industrial Relations and are trying to help school dropouts.

Armistead L. Boothe, Alexandria, Va.—Thanks for calling our attention to the fact that the 1924 lawsuit against Rep. Howard Smith of Virginia and William P. Woolls was dismissed by the Supreme Court of Appeals in Virginia. The main point of our column was to refute Rep. Smith's statement that his integrity had never been questioned prior to our earlier column. It had been questioned in this lawsuit, even though in the end he won.

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